



The Mini Page

Betty Debnam, Founding Editor and Editor at Large

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Happy 80th Birthday

The Seeing Eye

Have you ever tried walking around your house with your eyes closed? It's not easy. But it may help that you know your home so well.

Imagine the things you do all the time. In just one day, you might:



- walk or ride the bus to school, have lunch and move to several different classrooms.
- take part in sports practices or music lessons.
- walk to neighbors' or friends' houses to play.

• help your family prepare meals.

• ride a bike or a scooter.

Now imagine doing all those things without being able to see.

Help from a friend

People who are blind or have poor eyesight may find it difficult to do some regular daily activities. They may need help.

You have probably seen people with **service dogs**, or **dog guides**. These special dogs are carefully trained to help people who are disabled.

The organization that first trained dog guides to help blind people in the United States was founded 80 years ago. The Mini Page talked to experts there about how the animals are trained.



These students (with their dogs Tartar, left, and Gala) are in the first training class at The Seeing Eye in Nashville, Tenn., in 1929.

The first Seeing Eye® dogs

In the 1920s, an American dog trainer named Dorothy Eustis was living in Switzerland. She was learning about using German shepherds as working dogs.



Dorothy Eustis

Dorothy visited a school in Germany that was training dogs to help blind veterans from World War I.

Dorothy wrote an article for a popular American magazine, *The Saturday Evening Post*, about the amazing dogs. A blind man, Morris Frank, wrote to Dorothy and asked her to help him. He went to Switzerland and was trained to work with a dog guide.



photos courtesy The Seeing Eye

Reporters in New York City watch as Morris Frank and his dog, Buddy, cross a busy street.

A triumphant return

When Morris returned to New York City in 1928, he demonstrated his new freedom with his dog guide, Buddy.

Morris traveled around the United States telling people about the dogs and how they could help others. He and Dorothy founded The Seeing Eye in 1929 in Nashville, Tenn. Today the organization is in Morristown, N.J.

Breeding and Training

It takes a special kind of animal to be a dog guide. Dorothy Eustis trained and studied German shepherds. She admired their loyalty and intelligence.

Today at The Seeing Eye, almost all the dogs are German shepherds, Labrador retrievers, golden retrievers or Lab/golden mixes. Experts there believe these breeds have the right **temperament**, or personality, and the right size and energy level to be good working dogs.

Hundreds of puppies

A few miles away from its Morristown, N.J., campus, The Seeing Eye has its own breeding station. The organization breeds almost all its own dogs for training. In 2008, about 550 puppies were born at the station.

When the puppies are about 8 weeks old, volunteer families nearby take them home and raise them until they're about 18 months old.



Families living close to The Seeing Eye's campus volunteer to raise puppies until they're ready to be trained.

photo courtesy The Seeing Eye

Puppy raisers

Foster families who live close to the New Jersey campus provide the puppy's earliest training. They use a **manual**, or instruction book, that helps them teach the puppy to be well-behaved in public. For instance, the puppies are house-broken and trained not to jump up on people. They learn to stay off furniture and kitchen counters.

Foster families belong to clubs and may have group activities with other families who are raising dogs for The Seeing Eye.

Time for training

When the young dogs return to the campus, they begin work with a trainer.

First the trainer teaches the dog to obey simple commands, such as:

- "Sit"
- "Come"
- "Right"
- "Left"
- "Forward"

More lessons

Dogs are taught to stop when they come to a curb. That way, the owner can feel with his foot for the curb and step down carefully.

They're taught to walk around objects in the way, such as trash cans or poles.



Dogs are even trained to watch out for higher objects that the person might run into, even though the dog could go under them.

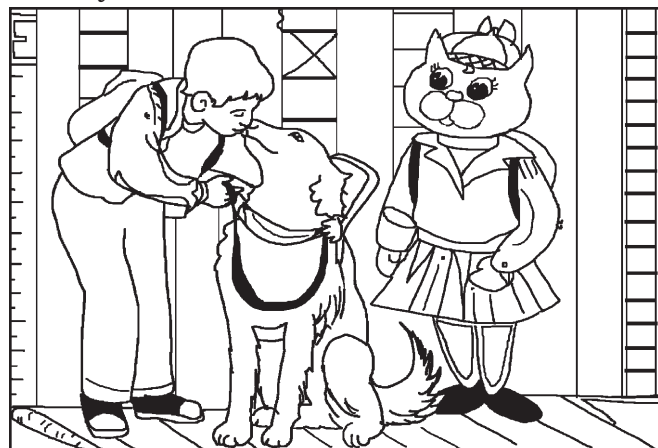


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Mini Spy ...



Mini Spy enjoys spending time with her friend and his guide dog. See if you can find:



- ladder
- acorn
- word MINI
- letter B
- kite • ruler
- number 7
- banana
- carrot
- letter E
- whale
- marshmallow
- bird

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Seeing Eye Dog TRY 'N FIND

Words that remind us of service animals are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find: GUIDE, BLIND, DOG, DOROTHY, EUSTIS, GERMAN, SHEPHERD, MORRIS, FRANK, BUDDY, PUPPY, VOLUNTEER, TRAIN, COMMAND, STUDENT, TRUST, SERVICE, MONKEY, HORSE, CAT, SEE, EYE, FREE, LAB, PET.

DOG GUIDES ARE HARD WORKERS!



G U I D E J F X D O R O T H Y
E O F S Q R W D N A M M O C S
R H D R E H P E H S I T S U E
M L N E A E V U Z E S R O H R
A J I P T N D Q P U K A T R V
N Z L M O N K E Y P W I Q A I
L A B T S U R T G E Y N X L C
S T U D E N T E Y Y D D U B E
M O R R I S R E E T N U L O V

Go dot to dot and color.



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Rookie Cookie's Recipe Tasty Turkey Bean Soup

You'll need:

- 1 (14-ounce) can fat-free chicken broth
- 2 (15.5-ounce) cans navy beans with liquid
- 1 (15.5-ounce) can northern beans with liquid
- 2 (14.5-ounce) cans stewed tomatoes with liquid
- 1 (14.5-ounce) can sliced carrots with liquid
- 3 cups cooked cubed turkey
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- salt and pepper to taste
- 4 cups spinach, stems removed



What to do:

1. Combine all ingredients except spinach in a large pot.
2. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer for 10 minutes.
3. Remove stems from spinach leaves; add spinach to soup.
4. Bring to a second boil, stirring constantly for 5 minutes.
5. Reduce heat and simmer for 20 more minutes.

**You will need an adult's help with this recipe.*

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Meet the Marleys



photo by Barry Wetcher,
courtesy 20th Century Fox

There were 22 dogs that played Marley in the movie "Marley and Me." Eleven of these dogs were puppies. The movie producers needed so many puppies because movies take a long time to make. The puppies kept growing too big before their scenes were finished.

In the movie, Marley grows to be 13 years old, so the movie needed dogs of several different ages to play him. The movie is based on the true story of a real family and a real dog, so the head animal trainer didn't train the dogs playing Marley to do any unusual tricks. He just let the dogs be dogs.

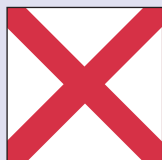
Because Marley was such a wild and crazy dog in real life, the trainer encouraged the dog actors to be "bad dogs" too. They got to play however they wanted. The photographers filmed them even during rehearsals so they could catch the dogs having the most fun.

The main dog was a dog named Clyde.

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MIGHTY
FUNNY'S

Mini Jokes

All the following jokes have something in common.
Can you guess the common theme or category?

David: What is a science teacher's favorite dog?
Darla: The Lab!



Denise: What works best for a dog with a fever?
Devin: Mustard. It's good for hot dogs!



Dylan: Why is it bad for a dog to swallow a clock?
Dora: Because it would have too many ticks!

Dogs and Humans



At The Seeing Eye in Morristown, N.J., a student learns to work with her dog guide. A trainer follows, giving the student encouragement and instruction about how to read the dog's signals.

photos courtesy The Seeing Eye

Site to see:
www.seeingeye.org

Training the owner

Once the dog has been trained, it's time to match it with a student. Students live at The Seeing Eye for a month, learning and practicing how to work with their dogs.

Dogs and students start out walking around the campus. They have to get used to each other's signals.

Soon they move on to other settings, such as the busy streets in Morristown, quiet neighborhood streets, train stations, malls and hotels.

Students also have to learn how to take care of their dog. Along with feeding and grooming it, they must consistently practice all the things they've learned at The Seeing Eye.



Trust is a must

Very few people are completely blind. Many can see shadows or colors, and some can even read large print.

Still, even people with partial sight may need to use a guide dog. And experts say that people with some vision must trust the dog and let it do its work.

For instance, if a dog is leading a person with some vision, and the dog moves closer to the edge of the curb than the person is comfortable with, the person will pull back on the harness. This will confuse the dog.

A dog's life



Guide dogs work for about eight to 10 years, depending on their health. When they retire, The Seeing Eye helps find loving homes for them.

At the library:

"Morris and Buddy: The Story of the First Seeing Eye Dog" by Becky Hall

"Buddy: The First Seeing Eye Dog" by Eva Moore

Guide dog manners

The experts at The Seeing Eye shared some rules about guide dogs.

1. Don't pet a dog in harness. When a dog is wearing a harness, it's doing its job. If you pet it, that's a distraction to the dog and makes its job harder.

(It's never a good idea to walk up to or pet any dog you don't know without asking the owner first.)

2. Don't call the dog.

3. Keep control of your own pet dog.

Experts say one of the biggest reasons for a

guide dog's retirement is interference from other dogs. Make sure your dog does not run up to the working dog. Let the blind person know you're there with your own pet.

4. If you see a blind person who looks confused or lost, it's always OK to ask if he or she needs any help.

Animals in service

Dogs and other animals can help people with other limitations besides blindness. They can alert people who can't hear well, pull wheelchairs or protect a person who is having a seizure.

Miniature horses, monkeys and cats may also be trained as service animals.

Scientists believe that animals have been used to help people for thousands of years. They have found cave paintings and other signs that early humans used dogs to help them.



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